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General Assembly

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Agenda item 134

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 27 December 2013

[*on the report of the Fifth Committee (A/68/689)*]

68/246. Questions relating to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 41/213 of 19 December 1986, 42/211 of 21 December 1987, 45/248 B, section VI, of 21 December 1990, 55/231 of 23 December 2000, 56/253 of 24 December 2001, 58/269 and 58/270 of 23 December 2003, 59/276, section XI, of 23 December 2004, 60/283 of 7 July 2006, 61/263 of 4 April 2007, 62/236 of 22 December 2007, 63/262 of 24 December 2008, 64/243 of 24 December 2009, 65/259 of 24 December 2010, 66/246 and 66/247 of 24 December 2011, 66/258 of 9 April 2012 and 67/248 of 24 December 2012,

Reaffirming also the respective mandates of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Committee for Programme and Coordination in the consideration of the proposed programme budget,

Reaffirming further the role of the General Assembly, through the Fifth Committee, in carrying out a thorough analysis and approval of posts and financial resources, as well as of human resources,

Having considered the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015,[1] the eighth progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of projects financed from the Development Account,[2] the report of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee on internal oversight: proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015,[3] the report of the Secretary-General on consultations on consolidating the secretariat of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination at United Nations Headquarters in New York,[4] the fifth progress

[1] A/68/6 (Introduction), (Sects. 1–3), (Sect. 4) and Corr.1, (Sect. 5) and Corr.1, (Sect. 6) and Corr.1, (Sect. 7) and Corr.1, (Sects. 8–12), (Sect. 13) and Add.1, (Sect. 14), (Sect. 15) and Corr.1, (Sects. 16–21), (Sect. 22) and Corr.1, (Sects. 23–25), (Sect. 26) and Corr.1, (Sect. 27) and Corr.1, (Sects. 28 and 29), (Sects. 29A–G), (Sect. 29H) and Corr.1 and (Sects. 30–36) and (Income sects. 1–3).

[2] A/68/92.

[3] A/68/86 and Corr.1.

[4] A/68/214.

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report of the Secretary-General on the enterprise resource planning project,[5] the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the second annual progress report of the Board of Auditors on the implementation of the United Nations enterprise resource planning system,[6] the letters dated 22 October and 12 November 2013 from the President of the General Assembly to the Chair of the Fifth Committee transmitting the letters dated 18 October and 11 November 2013 from the Secretary-General to the President of the General Assembly,[7] the report of the Secretary-General on limited budgetary discretion[8] and the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[9]

Having also considered chapter II, section A, of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on its fifty-third session[10] and the consolidated report of the Secretary-General on the changes to the biennial programme plan as reflected in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015,[11]

Having further considered the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the review of enterprise resource planning systems in United Nations organizations[12] and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination thereon,[13]

1. *Reaffirms* that the Fifth Committee is the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters, and reaffirms the role of the Fifth Committee in carrying out a thorough analysis and approving human and financial resources and policies, with a view to ensuring full, effective and efficient implementation of all mandated programmes and activities and the implementation of policies in this regard;

2. *Also reaffirms* rule 153 of its rules of procedure;

3. *Further reaffirms* the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation;[14]

4. *Reaffirms* the established budgetary procedures and methodologies, based on its resolutions 41/213 and 42/211;

5. *Also reaffirms* that no changes to the budget methodology, to the established budgetary procedures and practices or to the financial regulations may be implemented without prior review and approval by the General Assembly, in accordance with established budgetary procedures;

6. *Reiterates* the need for Member States to participate fully in the budget preparation process, from its early stages and throughout the process;

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[5] A/68/375 and Add.1.

[6] A/68/151.

[7] A/C.5/68/10 and A/C.5/68/13.

[8] A/68/490.

[9] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 7* (A/68/7), A/68/7/Add.7, A/68/7/Add.9 and A/68/507.

[10] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/68/16).

[11] A/68/75.

[12] A/68/344.

[13] A/68/344/Add.1.

[14] ST/SGB/2000/8.

7. *Emphasizes* the importance of providing the consistent and timely information necessary to enable Member States to make well-informed decisions;

8. *Stresses* that all Member States should fulfil their financial obligations as set out in the Charter of the United Nations on time, in full and without conditions;

9. *Recalls* paragraph 7 of section X of its resolution 67/246 of 24 December 2012, and reaffirms the need for a comprehensive and satisfactory solution to the problem of controlling the effects of inflation and currency fluctuations on the budget of the United Nations;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to commission an independent study on recosting and options for the Organization in dealing with fluctuations in exchange rates and inflation, drawing, inter alia, on the experience of other international organizations, and to report thereon to the General Assembly through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions at the main part of its sixty-ninth session;

11. *Decides* that a vacancy rate of 8.75 per cent for Professional staff and 6.4 per cent for General Service staff shall be used as a basis for the calculation of the budget for the biennium 2014–2015;

12. *Reiterates* the priorities of the Organization for the biennium 2014–2015, as outlined in General Assembly resolution 67/248;

13. *Notes with concern* the late issuance of the first report of the Advisory Committee on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015;[15]

14. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to take advantage of the potential of new systems and standards, such as the Umoja enterprise resource planning system and the International Public Sector Accounting Standards, in preparing his budget proposals, with a view to enhancing the quality and accuracy of information provided to Member States;

15. *Stresses* that results-based budgeting and results-based management are mutually supportive management tools and that improved implementation of results-based budgeting enhances both management and accountability in the Secretariat, and encourages the Secretary-General to continue his efforts in this regard;

16. *Reaffirms* paragraph 28 of resolution 55/231, and stresses the importance of adequate training to ensure the full implementation of results-based budgeting;

17. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination as contained in chapter II, section A, of its report;[10]

18. *Also endorses*, subject to the provisions of the present resolution and without establishing a precedent, the recommendations of the Advisory Committee concerning posts and non-post resources as contained in chapter II of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015;

[15] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 7* (A/68/7).

Part I
Overall policymaking, direction and coordination

Section 1
Overall policymaking, direction and coordination

19. *Takes note* of paragraphs I.11 and I.46 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and approves the establishment of the four posts proposed by the Secretary-General for the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children;

20. *Decides* to defer consideration of the proposal of the Secretary-General to establish a Partnership Facility to the first part of its resumed sixty-eighth session;

21. *Recalls* the letter dated 11 November 2013 from the Secretary-General to the President of the General Assembly[16] and the associated report on operational arrangements and conditions of service of the Advisory Committee,[17] and decides to defer consideration of this matter to its sixty-ninth session;

Section 2
General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management

22. *Decides* to approve one P-2 post in the Office of the President of the General Assembly;

23. *Also decides* to decrease the non-post resources allocated to the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management by 1.45 per cent;

Part II
Political affairs

Section 3
Political affairs

24. *Decides* not to abolish one P-2 post under subprogramme 1 in the Africa II Division;

25. *Takes note* of paragraph II.11 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and decides not to abolish two General Service (Other level) posts under subprogrammes 4, Decolonization, and 5, Question of Palestine;

26. *Also takes note* of paragraph II.14 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and decides not to abolish one General Service (Other level) post in the Office for the United Nations Register of Damage Caused by the Construction of the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory;

Section 4
Disarmament

27. *Takes note* of paragraph II.34 of the report of the Advisory Committee, recalls its resolution 62/216 of 22 December 2007, and decides not to approve the

[16] A/C.5/68/13, annex.

[17] Ibid., enclosure.

proposed abolishment of one Local level post in the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa;

28. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that adequate support is provided to the group of governmental experts established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/53 of 3 December 2012 on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, in order to enable the group to meet for two sessions of two weeks in both 2014 and 2015;

Section 5
Peacekeeping operations

29. *Decides* not to abolish one P-3 post under subprogramme 1;

Part III
International justice and law

Section 7
International Court of Justice

30. *Takes note* of paragraph III.6 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and decides to establish one P-2 post in the Office of the President of the International Court of Justice;

31. *Decides* to decrease the non-post resources allocated to the International Court of Justice by 2.35 per cent;

Part IV
International cooperation for development

Section 9
Economic and social affairs

32. *Decides* to establish one P-2 post in support of the implementation of the projects under the Development Account;

Section 12
Trade and development

33. *Decides* to establish one P-3 post of Programme Officer under executive direction and management;

Section 15
Human settlements

34. *Decides* not to abolish one P-2 post of Associate Human Settlements Officer;

Part V
Regional cooperation for development

Section 20
Economic development in Europe

35. *Recalls* paragraph V.51 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and decides not to abolish one P-4 post under subprogramme 4 and one P-3 post under subprogramme 6;

Section 21
Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean

36. *Decides* not to abolish one P-2 post under executive direction and management, one P-2 post under subprogramme 1, one P-2 post and one Local level post under subprogramme 3, one P-2 post under subprogramme 5, one Local level post under subprogramme 7, one Local level post under subprogramme 9, one P-3 post under subprogramme 12, one P-2 post under subprogramme 13 and one P-2 and three Local level posts under programme support;

Section 22
Economic and social development in Western Asia

37. *Decides* not to approve the proposed abolishment of one P-3, one P-2 and seven Local level posts;

Part VI
Human rights and humanitarian affairs

Section 24
Human rights

38. *Takes note* of paragraph VI.8 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and decides not to abolish one P-4 post of Secretary of the Consultative Group under subprogramme 4;

39. *Also takes note* of paragraph VI.9 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and decides not to abolish one P-5 post of Chief, Civil Society Section, in the External Outreach Branch;

40. *Decides* not to abolish one P-3 post in the Development and Economic and Social Issues Branch under subprogramme 1;

Section 26
Palestine refugees

41. *Decides* not to abolish one General Service (Other level) post in the West Bank;

42. *Also decides* to establish two Investigation Officer posts, one P-3 and one P-4, two P-4 Field Legal Officer posts, one each in Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic, and one P-3 Curriculum Expert post in Gaza specialized in the field of human rights;

43. *Recalls* its resolution 65/272 of 18 April 2011, and notes the financial stress under which the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East currently operates, despite the critical work carried out by the Agency in providing vital assistance to Palestine refugees;

Part VII
Public information

Section 28
Public information

44. *Decides* not to abolish two Local level posts, one each at the United Nations information centres in Panama and Ghana;

45. *Also decides* to decrease the non-post resources allocated to the Department of Public Information by 1.45 per cent;

Part X
Jointly financed administrative activities and special expenses

Section 31
Jointly financed administrative activities

46. *Decides* to decrease the non-post resources allocated to jointly financed administrative activities by 1 per cent;

Limited budgetary discretion

47. *Recalls* section I of its resolution 66/258, takes note of the report of the Secretary-General,[8] and endorses the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee.[18]

72nd plenary meeting
27 December 2013

[18] A/68/7/Add.9.

Annex

Staffing table for the biennium 2014–2015

Category	*Number of posts*
Professional and higher	
Deputy Secretary-General	1
Under-Secretary-General	33
Assistant Secretary-General	31
D-2	110
D-1	289
P-5	863
P-4/3	2 842
P-2/1	521
Subtotal	**4 690**
General Service and related	
Principal level	273
Other level	2 580
Subtotal	**2 853**
Other	
Security Service	314
Local level	1 963
Field Service	116
National Professional Officer	85
Trades and Crafts	97
Subtotal	**2 575**
Total	**10 118**